

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 01794 071809Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----071813Z 084615 /47

P R 071615Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3930
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 1794

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, SHUM, CSCE, UR, US
SUBJECT: CSCE MONITORING GROUP DEVELOPMENTS

REF: (A) MOSCOW 1715, (B) MOSCOW 1610

1. SUMMARY: GINZBURG CONTINUES UNDER ARREST. ORLOB IS STILL IN HIDING. SHAKHAROV AND ANOTHER ACADEMICIAN ISSUE A DECLARATION IN SUPPORT OF GINZBURG. THE UKRAINIAN CSCE GROUP IS AGAIN HARASSED. GROUP MEMBERS CONTINUE TO EMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF A STRONG WESTERN REACTION IF GINZBURG IS TO BE SAVED. END SUMMARY.

2. ALEKSANDR GINZBURG IS STILL UNDER ARREST. HE IS NOW IN KALUGA PRISON. HIS WIFE WAS RECEIVED BY "AN UNUSUALLY POLITE" KGB OFFICER WHO EVEN BROKE A FEW RULES IN ORDER TO INSURE THAT THE FOOD AND CLOTHING SHE HAD BROUGHT FOR HER HUSBAND WERE TRANSMITTED TO HIM WITHOUT DELAY. SHE WAS UNABLE TO GET ANY INFORMATION FROM THE KALUGA KGB ABOUT THE ARTICLE OF THE RSFSR CRIMINAL CODE UNDER WHICH HER HUSBAND WILL BE CHARGED. SHE PLANS TO GO TO KALUGA ON FEBRUARY 8 (VISITING DAY) AND HOPES TO BE ABLE TO SEE HER HUSBAND THEN AND ALSO TO GET SOME IDEA OF THE CHARGES. BETTING IN MOSCOW DISSIDENT CIRCLES CONTINUES TO BE ON
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MOSCOW 01794 071809Z

A CHARGE OF ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF FOREIGN CURRENCY.

3. YURIY ORLOV IS STILL IN HIDING IN A SMALL TOWN OUTSIDE OF MOSCOW. HIS WIFE WAS SUMMONED TO THE MOSCOW PROCURACY FOR QUESTIONING AFTERNOON OF FEBRUARY 7. REPORTEDLY ORLOV IS ANXIOUS TO RETURN. WE ARE TOLD THAT HIS WIFE AND FRIENDS ARE PLEADING WITH HIM TO STAY AWAY FOR

THE TIME BEING. THE FEELING IS THAT HE WILL BE ARRESTED IMMEDIATELY IF HE RETURNS, WHEREAS THE LONGER HE WAITS, THE GREATER LIKELIHOOD THERE IS THAT WESTERN PRESSURE MIGHT RESULT IN THE POLICE AND SECURITY AUTHORITIES DECIDING NOT TO ARREST HIM. AS THE DISSIDENTS SEE IT, ONCE ORLOV IS ARRESTED IT WILL BE HARD FOR THE AUTHORITIES TO LET HIM GO, WHEREAS IF HE IS NOT ARRESTED, THE PRESTIGE OF THE AUTHORITIES IS LESS CLEARLY ENGAGED AND THEY CAN BACK DOWN WITHOUT LOSING FACE.

4. ACADEMICIAN SAKHAROV ISSUED AN APPEAL FEBRUARY 4, DETAILING THE FACTS OF THE GINZBURG CASE AND TERMING THE ARREST "A LINK IN A CHAIN OF REPRESSION, PLANNED IN ANTICIPATION OF THE BELGRADE MEETING." THE REACTION OF SOVIET AND OF WORLD PUBLIC OPINION WILL DETERMINE, ACCORDING TO SAKHAROV, WHERE THE CHAIN ENDS. SAKHAROV'S APPEAL WAS ALSO SIGNED BY ACADEMICIAN IGOR SHAFAREVICH. IT IS NOTEWORTHY THAT SHAFAREVICH, WHO HAS BEEN MUCH LESS ACTIVE IN THE DISSIDENT MOVEMENT THAT SAKHAROV, AGREED TO SIGN THE DECLARATION. THREE OF THE FOUR "DISSIDENT" MEMBERS OF SOVIET ACADEMICIANS--THEI THIRD IS ORLOV HIMSELF--ARE NOW INVOLVED IN THE CSCE GROUP. ONLY BENJIMAN LEVICH, WHO RARELY PARTICIPATES IN SUCH EXERCISES, IS STILL ON THE SIDELINES.

5. THE UKRAINIAN BRANCH OF THE CSCE GROUP IS AGAIN BEING HARASSED. THE LEADER OF THE CHAPTER, MIKOLA RUDENKO, WAS DETAINED FOLLOWING ANOTHER SEARCH OF HIS APARTMENT ON FEBRUARY 5. HE HAD NOT BEEN RELEASED AS OF FEBRUARY 7. MOSCOW SOURCES REPORT THAT RUDENKO IS BEING DETAINED IN CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MOSCOW 01794 071809Z

CONNECTION WITH THE CASE OF GROUP MEMBER TIKHI, IN WHOSE HOME A WORLD WAR II AUTOMATIC PISTOL WAS FOUND DURING A EARLIER SEARCH (SEE MOSCOW 24). THE DONETSK PUBLIC PROSECUTOR IS HANDLING THE CASE, PRESUMABLY BECAUSE TIKHI RESIDES IN THE DONETSK OBLAST. ANOTHER MEMBER OF THE UKRAINIAN GROUP, MRS. MYSHKO, WAS HELD IN HER APARTMENT FOR 36 HOURS WHILE IT WAS BEING SEARCHED. IN HER MID-60S, AND REPORTEDLY IN BAD HEALTH, SHE ASKED FOR A FIRST AID AMBULANCE TO BE CALLED AT ONE POINT AND WAS REFUSED. HER CASE REPORTEDLY IS BEING HANDLED BY THE MOSCOW PROCURATOR AND THUS FAR NO ADDITIONAL DETAILS ARE KNOWN OF THE CHARGES.

6. VALENTIN TURCHIN AND ANATOLIY SHCHARANSKIY AGAIN COMMENTED TO US ON THE POSSIBLE RAMIFICATIONS OF THE CURRENT CRACK-DOWN. THEY SEE THE GINZBURG ASPECT AS THE MOST PRESSING AND POTENTIALLY THE MOST TRAGIC. TURCHIN SAYS THAT HE FEELS IT IS NOW EXCLUDED THAT GINZBURG WILL SIMPLY BE RELEASED WITHOUT FORMAL CHARGES BEING LEVIED. THE BEST THAT CAN BE HOPED FOR NOW IS THAT, LIKE SOLZENITSYN HIMSELF,

GINZBURG WILL BE EXPELLED FROM THE USSR. IN TURCHIN'S VIEW, IT IS MORE LIKELY THAT GINZBURG WILL BE SENTENCED TO AT LEAST SEVERAL YEARS IN PRISON WHICH, GIVEN HIS BAD HEALTH, WOULD BE TANTAMOUNT TO A DEATH SENTENCE. TURCHIN STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF A QUICK WESTERN RESPONSE TO THE ARREST. HE FELT THAT SUCH A RESPONSE, FROM GOVERNMENTS, THE MASS MEDIA AND IMPORTANT PERSONALITIES MIGHT RESULT IN GINZBURG'S BEING EXPELLED AND ORLOV'S BEING ALLOWED TO RETURN TO MOSCOW WITHOUT BEING ARRESTED.

7. SHCHARANSKIY, WHO IS THE UNOFFICIAL SPOKESMAN FOR THE JEWISH REFUSENIK COMMUNITY AND THEREFORE FAIRLY SOPHISTICATED IN THE POSSIBLE EFFECTS THAT WESTERN STATEMENTS CAN HAVE IN THE USSR, PUT MORE EMPHASIS ON THE PRESS PLAY ASPECT. HE OBSERVED THAT THE WESTERN CORRESPONDENTS HERE CAN PLAY A MAJOR ROLE IF THEY MANAGE TO KEEP THE GINZBURG STORY ON THE FRONT PAGES OF THEIR NEWSPAPERS. HE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 MOSCOW 01794 071809Z

ADDED THAT IT WAS IN A SENSE GOOD FOR THE DISSIDENTS THAT GEORGE KRIMSKY OF THE AP SHOULD HAVE BEEN EXPELLED AT THIS TIME, SINCE IT MIGHT ENCOURAGE WESTERN EDITORS TO TAKE MORE OF AN INTEREST IN STORIES ABOUT THE DISSIDENTS.

8. TURCHIN WAS CONCERNED THAT SOLZHENITSYN HAD BEEN SO SILENT ON THE FATE OF GINZBURG, SOLZHENITSYN'S FORMER SECRETARY AND THE HEAD OF HIS DEFENSE FUND. TURCHIN COMMENTED THAT THE DISSIDENTS WERE APPALLED THAT SOLZHENITSYN HAD REMAINED SILENT FOR SO LONG AND THAT HIS STATEMENT, WHEN ISSUED, WAS COMPARATIVELY WEAK. TURCHIN FELT THAT SOLZHENITSYN COULD AND SHOULD HAVE USED HIS MORAL AUTHORITY TO GREATER EFFECT.
TOON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, DISSIDENT FACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 07-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MOSCOW01794
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X4
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770043-0462
Format: TEL
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770267/aaaacgyt.tel
Line Count: 153
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 4107d9ca-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 77 MOSCOW 1715, 77 MOSCOW 1610
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3391757
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CSCE MONITORING GROUP DEVELOPMENTS
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, SHUM, UR, US, CSCE, (GINZBURG, ALEKSANDR), (ORLOV, YURIY)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4107d9ca-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009